

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE ON PERSONALITY  
DEVELOPMENT IN JEANNETTE WALLS'S *THE GLASS CASTLE*  
MEMOIR (2005): A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department  
Teacher Training and Education Faculty**

**by:**

**ALDA YUSNAVIZA**

**A320150177**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION  
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

**2019**

APPROVAL

THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE ON PERSONALITY  
DEVELOPMENT IN JEANNETTE WALLS'S *THE GLASS CASTLE*  
MEMOIR (2005): A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

ALDA YUSNAVIZA

A320150177

Approved to be Examined by the Consultant

The Consultant



Dr. M. Thovibi, M.S

NIK.410

ACCEPTANCE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE ON PERSONALITY  
DEVELOPMENT IN JEANNETTE WALLS'S *THE GLASS CASTLE*  
MEMOIR (2005): A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

ALDA YUSNAVIZA

A320150177

Accepted and Approved by Board Examiners

School of Teacher Training and Education

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

On April 2019

Team of Examiners:

1. Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S.  
(Head of Examiner)
2. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum.  
(Member 1 of Examiner)
3. Titis Setyabudi, M.A.  
(Member 2 of Examiner)

  
.....  
.....  
.....



Dean



Prof. Dr. Harun Joko Prayitno, M.Hum.

NIP.19504281993031001

## TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that there is no plagiarism in this article publication. There is no other work that has been submitted to obtain the bachelor degree and as far as I concerned there is no opinion that has been written or published before, except the written reference which are referred in this paper and mentioned in the bibliography.

If any incorrectness is proven in the future dealing with my statement above, I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, April 23<sup>th</sup> 2019

The Researcher



Alda Yusnaviza

A320150177

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES ON PERSONALITY  
DEVELOPMENT IN JEANNETTE WALLS'S *THE GLASS CASTLE*  
MEMOIR (2005): A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE**

**ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini fokus pada isu mengenai pengaruh lingkungan terhadap perkembangan kepribadian yang terdapat pada memoar berjudul *The Glass Castle* karya Jeannette Walls (2005). Teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis memoar ini adalah perspektif Behavioristik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa indikator-indikator pengaruh lingkungan terhadap perkembangan kepribadian yang terdapat pada memoar, bagaimana pengaruh lingkungan digambarkan oleh penulis, dan alasan penulis menyampaikan topik pengaruh lingkungan terhadap perkembangan kepribadian. Peneliti menggunakan dua sumber data dalam penelitian ini, yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Data primernya adalah memoar berjudul *The Glass Castle* dan buku elektronik yang berkaitan dengan topik isu, kamus, dan website terkait dengan informasi yang dibutuhkan sebagai data sekunder. Terdapat tiga hasil penelitian pada memoar ini. Pertama, ditemukan tiga indikator pengaruh lingkungan pada memoar ini yaitu faktor keluarga, faktor teman di sekolah, dan faktor masyarakat sekitar. Kedua, pengarang menyampaikan isu mengenai pengaruh lingkungan terhadap perkembangan kepribadian melalui karakter, kejadian, latar tempat, dan style yang terdapat pada memoar ini. Ketiga, pengarang mengangkat topik pengaruh lingkungan terhadap perkembangan kepribadian berdasarkan perjalanan hidupnya sebagai anak dari keluarga nomaden yang selalu berpindah tempat untuk hidup, yang di setiap tempat tinggal barunya memiliki keadaan dan situasi yang berbeda yang akhirnya memberikan pengaruh terhadap perkembangan kepribadian dirinya.

**Kata kunci:** pengaruh lingkungan, perkembangan kepribadian, Jeannette Walls, perspektif behavioristik

**ABSTRACT**

This research focuses on the issue of environmental influence on personality development portrayed in the memoir entitled *The Glass Castle* written by Jeannette Walls (2005). The theory that is used in analyzing this memoir is Behaviorist perspective. This research is conducted to analyze the indicators of environmental influence on personality development in the memoir, how the environmental influence is portrayed by the author, and the reason of the author addressing the topic of environmental influence on personality development. The researcher uses primary data and secondary data source. The primary data is the memoir entitled *The Glass Castle* and e-books which related with the issue, dictionaries, and website relates information needed as the secondary data. There are three main findings in this memoir. First, there are found three indicators of the environmental influence in the memoir such as family, peers in school, and community or society. Second, the author delivers the issue of environmental influence on personality development through character, event, setting of place, and style in the memoir. Third, the author addresses the topic of environmental

influence on personality development based on her life journey as a kid of a nomadic family that always moving away to lived, that in every her new place to live has its different condition and situation that finally influencing her personality development.

**Keyword:** environmental influence, personality development, Jeannette Walls, behaviorist perspective

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The major issue of this research study is about the environmental influence on personality development portrayed in *The Glass Castle* memoir written by Jeannette Walls which published on the year of 2005. The environmental influence is everything that happened around which can improve or change the way of thinking and behaving of people, while the personality development is the steps which happened in people's mind and attitude aims to improve or change by itself naturally. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the environmental influence on personality development is a stage where somebody's character grows periodically based on the influence of his/her surrounding situations that can change or improve a person lives his/her daily, overcomes problems that happened, the ways of speaking and so on. Jeannette Walls writes a memoir entitled *The Glass Castle* that tells her journey since she was childhood that has a lot of influences by her environment around for her personality development. This memoir has never been observed and analyzed by others since the researcher find and search this memoir as an analysis object on the internet for months since October 12, 2018 until today, April 21 2019. But, the researcher has found the same issue that has been analyzed by other researchers, that is about the personality development. The first research is "Influence of Environment on Different Personality of The Twins in Rainbow Rowell's *Fan-Girl* (2013): A Behaviorism Perspective" conducted by Hana Nur Hidayah from Muhammadiyah of Surakarta University, the second research is "The Effects of Abuses on Jerry Houseman's Personality Development as a Pedophile and on Robbie Young's as his Sexual Abuse Viction in Scott Campbell's *Touched*" conducted by Dewi Kurniati from Sanata Dharma University, and the last is "Esperanza's Personality

Development as Reflected in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*” conducted by Irsha Karisha Puspitasari from Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta.

Hana Nur Hidayah conducted a research which focused on the issue about environmental influence on different personality uses a novel entitled *Fangirl* by Rowell Rainbow with the main purpose is to identified the different personality between the twin characters in the novel and the method that is used is a qualitative. The finding of this research shows that there is three different personalities between the twins, relates to their opinion, act, and attitude. The other researcher is Dewi Kurniati who conducted a research which focused on the issue about the effects of abuses on personality development uses a novel entitled *Touched* by Scott Campbell with the main purpose is to identified that the past experience also have a big contribution in developing somebody's personality. This research is analyzed using psychological approach and the finding of this research is the character which discussed shows that somebody's personality is always change as the result of the surrounding environment and also because the experiences that the people ever had in life. The last, Irsha Karisha Puspitasari conducted a research which focused on the issue about personality development uses a novel by Sandra Cisneros entitled *The House on Mango Street*. The main purposed of this research is to identified the personality development of Esperanze as the main character in this novel which has been influencing by her early experience within family and also the environment outside their home. The method of this research is a qualitative approach and focusing on the individually background. The finding that is found by Irsha Karisha Puspitasari as the researcher are the personality development in Esperanza influenced by every events has happened in her life and also because she learnt from someone else's mistake.

Based on the three previous study above, it is known that there is no one researcher observes the memoir entitled *The Glass Castle*, but they all were observed and analyzed the same issue about the environmental influence on personality development. Then, the researcher decides to conduct a research focusing on the same issue but uses different material object, that is “*The Glass*

*Castle*” memoir written by Jeannette Walls. The reason why the researcher chooses this memoir, because this work is readable, contains so interesting story because based on the author’s true story, also this memoir is an eye opening for the readers to understand that even the environment around has a big contribution in influencing the personality development, everything still depends on how the people responds the situation to be a positive or negative. Based on those phenomena, the researcher is interested to study more about this issue in the literary work of memoir and tries to reveal the messages that the author – Jeannette Walls tries to deliver to the readers through her memoir.

The approach that is used in conducting this research is a behaviorism perspective. This approach will be used to analyze the basic aspects or elements of personality which influenced by the environment around, because behaviorism is primarily related to the visible behavior that usually happened based on the interactions between organism in an environment (Helms & Turner, 1981, p.72). In this memoir, there is a link between the story with the background of the author’s true life journey. It can also be concluded that the existence of a literary work has its own relationship with the surrounding environment of the writing background.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher conducts a descriptive qualitative as the study research. A descriptive qualitative research is the research method that describes information only in words (Endraswara, 2003, p.5). The main issue that is discussed in this research is about the environmental influence on personality development. There are two data sources used by the researcher, for the primary data source is the memoir entitled *The Glass Castle* written by Jeannette Walls on the year of 2005 and the secondary data source is from the supporting data related to the research, such as some theory e-books of behaviorism and personality, dictionaries, and the websites which supported the analysis of data. The technique of collecting data which is done by the researcher are classified into seven steps, those are reading critically *The Glass Castle* memoir, determining the



issue that will be analyzed, marking out the important point in the memoir, watching the movie of *The Glass Castle*, taking notes information from both of the memoir and its movie, classifying the relevant data, and the last is browsing the internet to find some information relates the memoir itself. Then, the data information that have been collected are analyzed by using the steps stated by Mathew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman including data reduction, data displays, and conclusion drawing/verification and used the behaviorism perspective theory.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 The indicators of the environmental influences on personality development in the memoir**

Based on the data that found by the researcher, the indicators of an issue about the environmental influence on personality development are classified into three categories found in this memoir, those are family, school, and community or society.

##### **3.1.1 Family**

A family is the main factor that can easily affect the personality of somebody, related to the habits which influenced each family member's activity, the way they think about something, also the way they face and solve problems that happened. The personality development in family could be influenced by parents or siblings. The researcher has found five influences by family, such as independent, smart, mature, firm, and caring. The one example of family indicator by parents is independent shown in the memoir when Jeannette and her siblings wanted money, they have to walk along the roadside and picking up the beer cans then redeem it for two cents each. Also, the example of family indicator by siblings is caring, that is shown in the situation when even Jeannette was in hunger situation and got a lot of foods, she still intends to save and share what she got to her brother, Brian later.

### 3.1.2 School

School is a place where the children got interaction with peers that also influencing their personality development. The peers at school could be the main factor after family who can affect and develop the personality of a child, they influenced how the way we do and speak up about something, especially in a range of the same ages. In this memoir, the researcher has found three influences by peers at school, such as tough, humble, and problem solving. The one example of indicator by peers at school is humble, shown in the memoir when Jeannette and Briand arrived at their new school and they still reciprocate with a smile even they got unpleasant gaze by their new friends.

### 3.1.3 Community/Society

The society is the area where we have to build a complex relationship with many people. Developing the personality could be influenced by the atmosphere in society, especially in the way we treat other people, the way we show who the true we are, and so on. There are two influences by community/society that the researcher found, roleplay and accepting reality. The example of roleplay shown when Jeannette is hiding when she saw her mother picking up trash at the corner of a building in New York, because Jeannette doesn't want the other person notice her true mother was. Also, the example of accepting reality shown when finally Jeannette visited their parents who living in an abandoned building on the Lower East Side.

## **3.2 The environmental influences on personality development depicted in the memoir**

Based on the data that found by the researcher, an issue about the environmental influence on personality development in the memoir are portrayed through character, event, setting, and style.

### 3.2.1 Character

The characters in this memoir are divided into two categories, those are the influencing characters and the influenced characters.

#### 3.2.1.1 The Influencing Character

The influencing characters is the character who have the main role in influencing the personality development of other characters. The example of this character is shown in the memoir when Rose Mary – Jeannette's mother has always ignoring her all children when they were crying aims to strengthen them to not being spoiled under any circumstances.

#### 3.2.1.2 The Influenced Character

The influenced characters is the character who get affected in their personality development. The example of this character is shown in the memoir, when Jeannette was tough enough when she got bullied by her friends at school. That's all because her parents, Rex Walls and Rose Mary have taught Jeannette to be strong and patient in every situation.

#### 3.2.2 Events

The researcher has found events that implied in this memoir relates to the issue about the environmental influence on the personality development. Those events are moving, bullying, fighting, and starving.

##### 3.2.2.1 Moving

The Jeannette's family is always moving like nomads and went through somewhere elses to live. They have been moving to several towns and cities. The one example when this family doing a skedaddle or moving away is shown in the memoir, when Rex Walls suddenly said that they all have to get away from Las Vegas, then Rose Mary decided that they have to move and live in San Francisco.

##### 3.2.2.2 Bullying

Bullying is the event that Jeannette and Brian have experienced in school. This event was always felt by them too in every their new school. The example of this event of bullying is shown when Jeannette has always answer every question by Miss. Cook at class, then she got bullied by her friends when back home. Her friend is pulling her hair, tearing her clothes and calling her as a teacher's pet.

#### 3.2.2.3 Fighting

Fighting is the situation that also appears in this memoir. The event of fighting that have been found by the researcher in this memoir shown by the illustration between Jeannette and grandma Erma got fighting because of an unnecessary thing done by grandma Erma to Brian and Jeannette tries to stand up for him.

#### 3.2.2.4 Starving

The last event that has found by the researcher in this memoir is starving. This situation is shown in the memoir, for the example when Jeannette and Lori were resorted to eat the margarine because they were hungry, but then they get yelled by their mother.

#### 3.2.3 Setting

The part of setting that found by the researcher in this memoir is the places that have been living by Walls' as a nomadic family. There are Phoenix, Welch, Las Vegas, San Francisco – Texas, Blythe, Battle Mountain, and the last is New York City and each place has its own characteristics.

##### 3.2.3.1 Phoenix

Phoenix is the first town that Walls' have been lived with Rose Mary's mother in a big white house. This place is shown as the town which lived by so many types of people, it could be seen when Jeannette explains the situation of Phoenix in this memoir. She said that there's a lot of people who lived in this town for years and others were just passing through like her family.

##### 3.2.3.2 Welch, West Virginia

Welch, West Virginia is the town where Jeannette's father – Rex Walls was born. In this memoir, the characteristic of this second place that were lived by Jeannette and her family shown when Jeannette re-tells the story told by her father that Welch is the area that only led farther up to the forbidden mountains with dying coal towns.

##### 3.2.3.3 Las Vegas

The next place is Las Vegas. The Walls' were living in Las Vegas for about one month before finally moving away to San Francisco. They were lived in a

small dark red motel and the kids were just went to the *Casinos* during the day.

#### 3.2.3.4 Mojave Desert, San Francisco – Midland, Texas

After lived in Las Vegas for a month, the Walls' moved away to San Francisco because of the problem that they got with the mafia in Las Vegas. They had moved to the driest desert in North America, called Mojave Desert for a while, then drove up the road and finally stayed in a little house at the city called Midland, in Texas.

#### 3.2.3.5 Blythe

Blythe being the town were chosen by the Walls' or Jeannette and her family to live after doing a skedaddle and moving away from Midland, Texas. But the parents of Jeannette, Rex Walls and Rose Mary were not really crazy about living in Blythe, because they think that Blythe was too civilized and also downright unnatural.

#### 3.2.3.6 Battle Mountain

Battle Mountain being the next destination that chosen by the Wallses to lived after moving away from Blythe. They had moved to Battle Mountain because Rex Walls told that Blythe had become a little too hot.

#### 3.2.3.7 New York City

The last setting of place that is appear in this memoir is New York City. This big city is the place where Jeannette, Lori, and Brian also Maureen continue their life after leaving Welch. They all were left Welch in turn. It's all shown in the memoir when Jeannette got her monologue that Lori writes Jeannette and her other siblings about the life that Lori got in Brooklyn. Then, Jeannette finally followed Lori shortly after that.

### 3.2.4 Style

#### 3.2.4.1 Figurative Language

The figurative language that is found by the researcher in this memoir is sarcasm. Sarcasm is a type of language that is usually used to mock others. The sarcasm word that is found are "You flea-bitten drunk!", "You goddamned flint-faced hag!", "You no-good two-bit pud-sucking bastard!",

“You scaly castrating banshee bitch!”, “You crazy bitch!”, “Get your goddamn ass back in this car!”, and “Stupid whore.”, “Garbage! You live in garbage ‘cause you *are* garbage!”, and “Garbage! Garbage! Y’all are bunch of garbage!”

#### 3.2.4.2 Diction

Diction in this memoir also found by the researcher, when spoken by the principal of Welch Elementary School in questioning Jeannette. He said, “*Wuts et tahm sebm?*” that is actually mean for “What is eight times seven?”

#### 3.2.4.3 Symbol

The researcher found a symbol that is used in the memoir, when Rex Walls calls the cop or police as a *gestapo*.

### **3.3 Reasons of addressing environmental influence on personality development**

There is a message that Jeannette Walls wants to deliver related to the influence of environment around on somebody’s personality development. Starting from Jeannette’s past life, she was born in a nomadic family who always doing a skedaddle or moving from one place to another aims to lived within an alcoholic father and a dreamer mother. Every place that she has been choosing with her family to live has their own characteristics, it can be the atmosphere of the house, the surrounding environment, friends, neighbors and even the problems that arise from each place always provide her new experiences that can be understood as time passes, so that it becomes a habit and finally have influenced her personality development. For the examples, Jeannette and her brother – Brian will scrape the foods from the trash when they were hungry, because their family condition is always in shortage with their indifferent parents, also, the young Jeannette has ever been bullied entire her life in every her new school by her friends, because they thought that Jeannette was different. But that’s what taught them to be tough within every condition. Based on the life experience of the author that ever grows in a hard family situation, the researcher concludes that those are some reasons of why Jeannette

Walls addresses the environmental influence on personality development in one of her works entitled *The Glass Castle* memoir. The environmental influence on personality development is depicted through many indicators found by the researcher that support the author – Jeannette Walls in deliver her idea about the influence of environment around on somebody's personality. Jeannette Walls wants to show the readers that the surrounding environment is the main influence on the development of someone's personality. That personality development which includes attitudes, ways of behaving, speaking, and how to overcome some problems can also depend on what is usually faced and felt in the everyday life. However, the personality development that is influenced by the environment does not always have the same impact as what is happening around. Everything depends on how we respond to those things happened. It can be seen from the ending part in this memoir that despite growing up with all the problems, Jeannette and her all siblings ended up in a successful and happy life.

### **3.4 Discussion**

After analyzing the findings in *The Glass Castle* memoir, the researcher finds that there is a strong relationship between this memoir with the environment where the author lives. From the perspective of psychology of literature that is cited in Sangidu, it is explained that literary is a work that consists of the story of human life related by the true character in real or even the imaginary characters. The author gets inspiration to write this memoir based on her true story. Based on the study above, the researcher has analyzed the issue about the environmental influence on personality development and used the statement by Pikunas about the elements of environment that influencing the personality of somebody; that are consist of family, peers, school, and community or society. But for the findings, the researcher only found three elements which can be proven by the evidences from this memoir. Those three elements are family, school, and community or society because Jeannette Walls was not have peers around

her place, but only in her school. The main factor of personality development mostly related to the environment around us, and family is the strongest factor that usually influencing our personality because in family we get the first interaction to establish our behavior before we got into the social environment with a lot of people. Through the family, the author tells us about what conditions of her family was, that build up her personality to be independent since she was toddler, smart, firm, and caring her parents and her siblings. Followed by factor of school, the researcher found that its environment has influenced the personality of the author to stay humble to her friends who have bullied her at school. Also, through that bullying action she has experienced, her personality grows to be tough and easily found the way to solve that problem. The last factor is in community or society, this memoir is not really explaining what was happened in the author's society environment except it influenced the personality of the author to be two sides behaviors; they are negative side and positive side. The researcher assumes that the society around the author was forced her to do roleplay because as a reporter who works at the famous newspaper corporation, she has to keep her whole secret about her past to everyone around her that might be make her feel ashamed. But then she finally accept the reality, because she understands that whatever the situation of her parents and her past she must accept it as a good reality that makes her developed to be better person. Behaviorism is primarily concerned with observable aspects of human behavior as well as the inner causes of behavior, such as habits, actions, emotions and attitudes. So based on the findings that found by the researcher, this memoir is strongly related to the theory of behaviorism because it shows the details that interrelated to what the author has experienced about the personality development as habits, action, emotions, and attitudes which influenced by the environment around.



#### 4. CONCLUSION

This part elaborates the conclusion of the analysis in the previous chapter. First, from four elements of environment by Pikunas, the researcher finds three elements of environment which influenced the personality development in the memoir. Those are family, school, and community or society. Based on the elements of family, the personality which developed are independent, smart, mature, firm, and caring. While based on the elements of school are tough, humble, and problem solving. Then the last, the elements of community or society has develop the personality of negative and positive sides are role-play and accepting reality.

The second is four things that support the environmental influence on personality development in this memoir, they are characters, event, setting, and style. The characters that support the issue are classified into two categories; the influencing characters meant the character who have a main role in developing the personality and the influenced characters meant the character whose personality has developed by the other influences. The events that is found by the researcher as the moment that influencing the personality are moving, bullying, fighting, and starving. The setting is classified into the place chosen by the characters to move and live as a nomadic family in the memoir, they are Phoenix, Welch, Las Vegas, Mojave Desert of San Francisco, Blythe, Battle Mountain, North Third Street – Phoenix, 93 Little Hobart Street – Welch, and the last is New York City. The style that is found by the researcher to support the issue about the environmental influence on personality development in this memoir are figurative language of sarcasm, diction, and symbol.

The third is the reason why the author – Jeannette Walls addressing the issue about the environmental influence on personality development in her memoir entitled *The Glass Castle*. This memoir tells the true story life of the author, she writes everything in this memoir based on what she has experienced entire her life as a kid who grows in a nomadic family. Moving somewhere aims to find a new place to live has taught her about a lot of things that of course affected her personality related to the new place, new people and new

environment she was living in. That is why, Jeannette Walls delivers the issue of the environmental influence on personality development to share if the character or personality of everybody can be changed and developed by everything around them.

## REFERENCE

- Endraswara, S. 2003. *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Widyatama.
- Helms, Donald B and Jeffrey S. Tunner. 1981. *Exploring Child Behavior*. Second Edition. CBS College Publishing. New York.
- Hidayah, Hana Nur. 2017. Thesis: *Influence of Environment on Different Personality of the Twins in Rainbow Rowell's Fangirl (2013): A Behaviorism Perspective*. Surakarta: Muhammadiyah University.
- Kurniati, Dewi. 2008. Thesis: *The Effects of Abuses on Jerry Houseman's Personality Development as a Pedophile and on Robbie Young's as his Sexual Abuse Viction in Scott Campbell's Touched*. Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University.
- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. 1994. *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded sourcebook* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Puspitasari, Irsha Karisha. 2012. Thesis: *Esperanza's Personality Development as Reflected in Sandra Cisneros' The House on Mango Street*. Yogyakarta: Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta
- [http://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/17638/The Glass Castle.pdf](http://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/17638/The_Glass_Castle.pdf). Accessed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 14:49